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COUN East Germany

TOPIC Military Information on Mecz Div Eggesin and Military Activity at

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Pramort AAA Firing Range at Zingst

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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18 March 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. In early February 1955, the names of the following officers became known:

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Major General Wilhelm Mayer,

deputy minister for the Ministry of Interior in charge of construction and quartering department;

Major General Siegfried Weiss,

commander of Mecz Div Eggesin;

Lieutenant Colonel Tabbert (fnu), chief of staff of Mecz Div Eggesin;

Lieutenant Colonel Brenner (fnu), first deputy to the commander of Mecz Div Eggesin;

Lieutenant Colonel Hitzinger (fnu), chief of Rear Services

Lieutenant Colonel Burkhardt (fnu), deputy PK officer;

Major Pohlmann (fnu), chief of quartering office Eggesin;

Major Fietz (fnu), commanding officer of the Arty Regt Karpin who succeeded Major Bernhardt (fnu);

Major Bernhardt (fnu), reassigned to division headquarters Eggesin;

Major Jahns, section E ;

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Major Schwenke (fnu), commanding officer of the 3d Mecz Regt Karpin, section E; formerly, first deputy to the commanding officer of the 2d Mecz Regt Karpin, section D. 1

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2. On 12 February 1955, the 2d Mecz Regt Karpin engaged in a demonstration exercise which was witnessed by 60 officers of Corps North with General ~~Hermann~~ Rentsch and other high-ranking officers of the KVP Department of the Ministry of the Interior. The training unit consisted of approximately 380 soldiers of the 2d Mecz Regt and a truck column, an armored scout car and a motorcycle unit from barracks section A. Following an alert, the soldiers were informed that a major enemy force had landed in the Bay of Warsin and that, supported by ship artillery and tanks, a bridgehead was formed as far as the area of Hoppenwalde-Luckow. Maps turned in after the exercise indicated that the assembly area of the KVP was located between Ahlbeck and Rieth. The main line of resistance ran from Torgelow to Hintersee. The enemy force was a unit from Altwarp. Similar demonstration practices were held by all units in Karpin from 2 to 14 February 1955. On 14 February, the artillery regiment departed for a practice and returned to the kaserne on 15 February. The mortar regiment which also left on 14 February was not yet back by 18 February. A large-scale exercise of several days' duration was said to have begun on 17 February. The training schedule of the 2d Mecz Regt listed a regimental exercise in Jaegerbrueck from 1 to 3 March and, subsequently, preparatory exercises for the division maneuver together with other units. The division exercise was scheduled to be held north of the Pasewalk-Loecknitz railroad line in early April. 2
3. On 17 February, the 2d Mecz Regt including the elements engaged in exercises numbered 209 officers and 1,124 NCOs and EM.
4. In mid-February a medical course lasting 22 days was under way with the 2d Mecz Regt. Forty-six participants from the entire division area were counted. Another course of instruction which was to involve all officers for interior duty of the division was to be held in Droegeheide.
5. During the period from 30 January to 11 February, it appeared that the units in Karpin were engaged in exercises in the vicinity of their post. The noise of carbine fire, artillery fire and of moving tanks was daily heard from the woods in the direction of Neumuehl. 2
6. Between 25 January and 23 February, the AAA regiment Altwarp still numbered approximately 400 soldiers commanded by Major Rau (fnu). Captain Knuth (fnu) was supply officer of the unit. The equipment of the regiment still consisted of 22x37-mm and AA guns and 12 AA machine guns. On 20 February, it was announced that the 140 soldiers of the regiment was terminated their three-year term of service during the following months were due for discharge. The officers were given orders, however, to encourage the soldiers to reenlist. 1 and 3
7. There was intensive training activity during the period of observation. Five trucks carrying 4 x 37-mm guns were daily seen driving to the training field where the troops were constructing field fortifications

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and practiced aiming at air targets. Groups of 200 soldiers daily engaged in infantry combat practice on the terrain. On 20, 21, 22 and 23 February, the regiment conducted short exercises in the Luckow-Eggesin area. In late February, the troops organized into companies made practice marches over 15 km.

8. On 16 February, the driver school unit in Altwarp terminated a course of instruction. Prior to 18 February, however, the unit again numbered approximately 220 men. They were commanded by Major Heckel (fnu). 1
9. Between 9 July and 4 August 1954, the AAA regiment Altwarp participated in firing at air targets at the KVP AAA firing range Pramort Auf Dem Darss together with all independent AAA units of Corps North. The units were shipped by rail as far as Barth and reached Pramport via Zingst by road. Inadequate preparatory measures for the firing practices resulted in the units bivouacked in tents not firing a single shot for three weeks. The training tasks were then carried out in three days. The course of the training was also hampered by the fact that the target-towing plane was also employed for Soviet AAA units in Wustrow. Information of February 1955 indicated that Pramort is now scheduled to be a permanent firing range for the KVP.
1. Comment. The officers mentioned are known except for Major Fietz (fnu). Changed appointments are reported for the first time, however.
2. Comment. The course of the training which concentrated on firing and combat practices and several-day practices outside the post corresponds with the training status of Mecz Div Potsdam and with that of the Soviet units. It appears that the KVP training program for 1955 has been based on the Soviet training program since the dates for regimental and division exercises correspond to Soviet practice.
3. Comment. The number of soldiers to be released indicated that about 35 percent of the actual strength of the AAA Regt Altwarp will be released in the summer of 1955. Although the number of soldiers persuaded to reenlist cannot be estimated and the situation in other units may be more favorable, it must be expected that a total of 25,000 to 30,000 soldiers will be released.

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